Christopher Cannon
Heather Green
GCU
CWV 316
July12

Summarize what each passage says about identity

John 1Our identity begins with receiving Christ. When we believe in him, we are given the right to become children of God—not by birth or effort, but by God's will.
John 15Identity in Christ means staying connected to him like a branch to a vine. Apart from him, we can't bear fruit, but abiding in him makes us grow and reflect his love.
Romans 6When we are in Christ, our old self dies with him, and we are raised to a new life. Our identity shifts from being slaves to sin to being slaves to righteousness.
Romans 12Our identity in Christ means offering our bodies as living sacrifices and renewing our minds. We no longer conform to the patterns of this world but are transformed to live out God's will.
2 Corinthians 5(My Favorite) Anyone in Christ is a new creation. The old has passed away, and all things have become new—our identity is now rooted in reconciliation with God.
Galatians 2Paul shows identity in Christ as "Christ lives in me." We no longer live for ourselves but by faith in the Son of God, who loved us and gave himself for us.
Galatians 4We are no longer slaves but God's children and heirs. This gives us security and purpose as part of God's family.
1 Peter 2Christians are a chosen people and a royal priesthood, set apart to declare God's praises. Our identity is about belonging to God and reflecting his light in a dark world.

✝ Describe how the Christian worldview centers an individual's identity in Christ

The Christian worldview says identity isn't self-made; it's God-given. In Christ, we're not defined by our past, our talents, or the world's labels. We're defined by our relationship with Jesus—chosen,

loved, forgiven, and set apart (1 Peter 2:9). This shift comes through identifying with his death and resurrection. Romans 6 says when Christ died, our old self died too. When he rose, we were raised into a new life. This isn't symbolic only; it's a real change in who we are.
Baptism shows this process outwardly. Going under the water represents dying to sin, and rising up symbolizes new life in Christ (Romans 6:4). It's a declaration that our lives belong to him now. Living in Christ means staying connected (John 15), letting his Spirit produce fruit in us like love, joy, peace, and obedience.
This has deep significance for me. It reminds me I'm not my failures or successes.

My identity isn't built on how others see me or even how I see myself. It's built on Christ's finished work on the cross and his ongoing work in me. That truth keeps me grounded when the world feels chaotic or when I'm tempted to chase lesser things for worth or meaning.

□ Why is it tempting to center your identity in other things?

It's easy to anchor identity in what we can see—talents, what we know; passions, legacy; careers—because they give instant feedback and recognition. The world teaches us to measure our worth by achievements or relationships. But these things aren't permanent. Talents can fade, careers can change, reputations tarnish and communities can disappoint us.

When we build identity on these, we risk losing our sense of self when they're taken away. If I center my worth on my abilities or success, what happens when I fail or get sidelined? My value can feel like it disappears too. This is why Christ-centered identity matters so much.

Galatians 2:20 reminds us that our life is now "hidden with Christ in God." He gives us a stable, unshakable identity—child of God, forgiven, set apart. Even if everything else is stripped away, nothing can separate us from his love (Romans 8:38–39).

Personally, I've had moments where I've leaned too hard on passions and success for identity. When those things wobbled, so did I. But living from my identity in Christ means I'm secure even when life isn't. It shifts my focus from proving myself to trusting God's work in me.

Way down here
Ephesians 1:7

The blood of Jesus Christ is the means by which this redemption is accomplished, signifying the sacrifice made for the forgiveness of sins. Seems like we're going through it: maybe a dictator who wasn't a dragon! Mere mortal.